2. For old cases legal actions are taken against the encroachers under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and other relevant State Acts.

Air Pollution in the Capital

1093. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while all forms of pollution have hit healthy living in the Capital, air pollution is the most deadly with major sources like Vehicles, Thermal Power Plants, Industries and Domestic Coal burning as reported in "The Hindustan Times" dated 28th November, 1994;

(b) whether Government are aware that an estimated 2000 metric tonnes of pollutants are emitted in the atmosphere everyday in Delhi with Carbon Monoxide (CO) 1053 metric tonnes, Nitrozen Dioxide 323 MT, Hydro Carbons 320 MT and Sulphur Dioxide 179 Metric tonnes in addition to vehicular sources adding day by day in the Capital, with already 2.1 million registered vehicles as in 1993; and

(c) if so, what preventive measures Central Government propose to take to save Delhi from further choking with high pollution in air, noise and water etc. make living healthy and peaceful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Of all sources of pollution in the Capital, it is true that air pollution requires greater attention. However, monitoring of ambient air quality of Delhi indicates that the annual average levels of pollution such as oxide of nitrogen and sulphur dioxide are within the prescribed limits. Levels of suspended particulate matter (SPM) are higher than the prescribed limits. This is mainly due to increase in emissions from automobiles and due to the general dusty conditions in Delhi. Levels of carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen are high at some busy traffic intersections and in areas of high traffic density, particularly during peak hours.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The measures taken and proposed by the Central Government to prevent and control pollution of air, noise and water in Delhi include the following:

(i) Effluent and emission standards for major categories of polluting industries have been notified.

(ii) Ambient air, water quality and noise standards have been evolved. The Central Pollution Control Board has set up ten monitoring stations in different areas of Delhi for regular monitoring of pollutants.

(iii) Industries have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards within a time frame.

(iv) A scheme for setting up common effluent treatment plants in clusters of small scale industrial units in Delhi has been taken up.

(v) It is proposed to clean up the river Yamuna under the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan.

(vi) The Central Pollution Control Board has evolved codes of practices controlling noise from sources other than industries. These include, public address system, aircraft operation railway operation, construction operation and bursting of crackers.

(vii) Gross and mass emission standards for all categories of vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Department of Transport, Govt. of Delhi. An intensive public awareness campaign has been launched by the Transport Department, Delhi to educate people about the statutory punitive provisions related to vehicular pollution, health hazards, and need for taking measures for control of pollution from vehicles.

(viii) The Transport Department, Government of Delhi had, between March, 1990 and November, 1993, checked approximately 11.59 lakh vehicles.

(ix) Private petrol pumps and workshops numbering 120 have been authorised by the Department of Transport, Govt. of Delhi for pollution checking tuning of polluting vehicles and issuance of Pollution under Control Certificates. Approximately, 12,01 lakh vehicles have availed this facility between July, 1990 and November 1993. Of these, 3.25 lakh polluting vehicles have been tuned and pollution emitted from these vehicles have been brought within the prescribed standards.

(x) It has been decided to introduce unleaded petrol in Delhi from April 1, 1995, for new four wheeler petrol driven vehicles fitted with catalytic converters.

Environment clearance of New Coal Mines

1094. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been framed regarding quality of coal, particularly with reference to the ash content, for according environmental clearances for new coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the weightage given to the ash contents in coal while according environmental clearances;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, keeping in view that high ash content coal tends to pollute the environment;

(d) whether any action has been taken or contemplated to stop mining of such quality of coal which has ash content or more than a specified limit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Keeping in view that high ash content coal tends to pollute the environment, several stringent conditions are being stipulated to minimise the adverse impacts while according environmental clearance.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Indian coals by their very nature have a higher ash content compared to those from many countries. It is, therefore, not advisable to make any stipulations in this regard.

Use of Aircraft frum UNDP

1095. SHRI V. GUPALSAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many aircrafts Government took from UNDP in the past;

(b) the details of these aircrafts and the purpose for which each aircrafts was used in the past;

(c) how many aircrafts are presently left with Government; and

(d) whether there had been any loss of aircraft in the past; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests received one helicopter and one airplane from UNDP, the details of which are as under:

1. Lama Helicopter VT-ELY

2 Piper Seneca III Airplane VT-EOZ.

These aircrafts were acquired by the Ministry as part of a UNDP—assisted project on Modern Forest Fire Control Methods. The project came to an end in 1990-91, and the aircrafts continued to